

In the course of this revision, subject headings have been inserted at the appropriate locations throughout the specification in a manner consistent with the preferred guidelines set forth at 37 CFR §1.77 and Section 601 of the Manual of Patent Examining procedure (MPEP).

In addition, the Abstract of the Disclosure has been rewritten on a separate page, deleting therefrom any extraneous PCT information. It is believed that the accompanying Abstract of the Disclosure is in full compliance with 37 CFR §1.72(b) and Section 608.01(b) of the MPEP.

Claims 16-26 were rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness. The Primary Examiner's well-taken formal criticisms of these original claims were borne in mind as points to be corrected in preparing the amendment. Specifically, the claims have been amended in such a manner as to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded by applicants as their invention. When preparing the amendment, great care was taken to ensure that the terms recited therein possessed proper antecedent basis. Thus, the claims as amended are believed to set out and circumscribe a particular frame for use in loading groups of battery plates into respective cells in a box, with a reasonable degree of precision and specificity, when read in light of the teachings of the original specification. It is respectfully submitted that a person having ordinary skill in the art would be reasonably apprised of the metes and bounds of the claims as amended. Accordingly, it is believed that

the rejection of claims 16-26 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, has been overcome and should not be repeated.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, therefore, it is believed that this application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are accordingly earnestly solicited.

In the event that there are any questions relating to this amendment or to the application in general, it would be appreciated if the Examiner would telephone the undersigned attorney concerning such questions so that the prosecution of this application may be expedited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE".

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

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IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 16 has been amended as follows:

--16. (amended) A frame for use in loading groups of battery plates into respective cells in a box, comprising a plurality of spaced walls having a width and defining respective group receiving spaces, the walls being moveable away from and towards each other to allow groups to be inserted in the spaces and subsequently grippingly retained therein and compressed by the walls, and guide means mounted at [the] a lower end of the walls to locate in the cells and form a continuous surface with the walls [characterized in that], wherein the guide means extend across the full width of the walls, cells or groups, and [in that] the groups may be loaded from the frame whilst still under compression.--

Claim 17 has been amended as follows:

--17. (amended) A frame as claimed in claim 16 further comprising stop means for each space insertable between a respective pair of walls into the respective space to locate [the] a bottom edge of a group when [it] the group is placed into the space.--

Claim 18 has been amended as follows:

--18. (amended) A frame for use in loading battery plates into respective cells in a box, comprising a plurality of spaced walls defining group receiving spaces, the walls being movable away from and towards each other to allow groups to be inserted into the spaces and subsequently grippingly retained

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therein by the walls [characterized in that it further comprises]; and removable stop means for each space insertable between a respective pair of walls into the respective space to locate [the] a bottom edge of a group when [it] the group is placed into the space.--

Claim 19 has been amended as follows:

--19. (amended) A frame as claimed in claim 18 wherein the stop means locate the group against downward movement and lateral movement relative to [the] a mid-plane of the group.--

Claim 21 has been amended as follows:

--21. (amended) A frame as claimed in claim 18 wherein the stop means provide orthogonal abutments and are rotatable about an axis adjacent [tot he] to an intersection of the abutments.--